



## Ordination Greetings

**David B. Edelson, Chair, Hebrew Union College Board of Governors**

**Hebrew Union College, Ordination, May 3, 2026**

On behalf of the Board of Governors, I am honored to welcome all of you today to this amazing and moving ordination ceremony. I feel especially privileged to address our 18 exceptional newly ordained Rabbis and Cantors.

We come together in this majestic and historic sanctuary as the College celebrates 150 years, a remarkable legacy of scholarship, spiritual formation, and service to the Jewish people. That legacy continues with you.

The 18 of you are now twelve new rabbis and seven new cantors, which, of course, adds to 19! Amongst you is one rabbi newly ordained as a cantor, and one person who today was ordained as both a rabbi and a cantor.

We need all of you now more than ever.

The Board of Governors extends its unfettered congratulations to you, the Class of 2026 / 5786. We also honor your families and loved ones who stood beside you through every challenge and triumph over these past five years.

Your path to this moment was not easy. You pursued your calling during times of uncertainty and pain for the Jewish world, when the weight of October 7th and its aftermath have made the work of Jewish leadership feel more difficult yet more urgent than ever.



You rose to meet that moment. Thank you.

You leave HUC not only with knowledge and skills, but with purpose. And it is that sense of purpose, more than anything else, that will define your rabbinates and cantorates.

The communities awaiting you are hungry for exactly what you bring: Vision, warmth, wisdom, and a deep commitment to Jewish life. You have the power to transform those communities, and through them, to help shape the Jewish future.

You take your place among more than twenty-five-hundred active rabbinical and cantorial alumni whose work spans the globe and touches countless lives. No doubt you will energize and elevate that network.

We ask much of you. We ask you to be guardians of Judaism's ethical tradition, a tradition that has guided our people throughout our history.

We ask you to strengthen the connections between North American Jewry, the State of Israel, and Jewish communities everywhere.

And we ask you to be voices for the values our world so desperately needs, like justice, compassion, dignity, and hope.

The arc of the moral universe does not bend on its own. It bends because people like you choose to bend it.

May you be sustained by the wisdom of your teachers, the friendship of your classmates, and the love of those who will walk with you through all that lies ahead. May your work bring you joy. And may those whose lives you touch feel the full blessing of your presence.



On behalf of the Board of Governors, congratulations. We could not be prouder of you, or more hopeful because of you. May your lives be enriched by the time you spend together at HUC.